

THE PUTNEY COLUMN.

Letter from Mrs. Ward.

Francis Against the Action of the Vermont Courts—Does Not Believe Her Children Are in Algeria, Africa.

Editor of Phoenix—Last week you gave attention in your columns to an advertisement which I inserted in the Boston papers, and an article in the Herald. It is not strange that the spectacle of a mother, forced to advertise through the papers for a knowledge of her children, should attract the attention of the press.

In your paper you said that my application to the county court for custody of children was refused. That may give a wrong impression. The verdict was "Dismissed without prejudice." I have been accused of anything which would make me unworthy to have the care of my children. I never have heard of it, and do not know what it is. All of the charges which I have ever heard in court were either false on the face of them, or too trivial to command the attention of thinking people.

Vermont boasts of the protection which it gives to the home, but a half crazy crank can take his children away from their mother and into Vermont, and the mother has no authority until the Vermont judge gives it to her by a special decree, and it was the Vermont courts which refused to hear the plea of a mother for her children, until the father and the children were both concealed, and then the supreme court held there was no contempt of court, that he had a lawful right to disappear.

I have heard that my children and their father are in Algeria, Africa, that people have had letters from him from there, but I have no proof that the letters were written in Algeria, or were even authentic letters. The efforts which I have made all winter to try to learn their exact location, or get direct news from them have been unsuccessful. From my knowledge of the man, and a wife should know her husband better than strangers or acquaintances, I do not think it possible that they are there. Because all of my other efforts have been unsuccessful, I have been driven to court the publicity of the press.

Probably Perished at Pekin.

In this column last week was mentioned the probable murder of Rev. F. M. Chapin and his wife, Mrs. Flora Barrett Chapin, and their three children in the massacre at Pekin, China. In this connection further facts are at hand which will be of interest. The American Board of Missions recently called to Rev. George H. Ewing, reported to have escaped to Chefoo, in regard to the other Congregational missionaries. The reply, dated July 5, stated that Rev. and Mrs. F. M. Chapin were besieged at the British legation in Pekin. The Congregationalist of last week gave the whereabouts of the Congregational missionaries as far as known. It stated that Rev. and Mrs. Chapin and two children, located at Lin Ching, went to Pekin to attend an annual meeting and were supposed to have been taken refuge there. Among the Lin Ching missionaries safe at Chefoo are Rev. and Mrs. H. P. Perkins and children and one child of Rev. and Mrs. Chapin. Mrs. Chapin is a daughter of Mrs. O. E. Bragg of this town. Her son, Mr. S. Chapin, has been visiting his grandmother for some time.

There was a good attendance at the Methodist lawn party, and the receipts were about \$20.

Mrs. E. S. Munger and Miss Maud Munger went Monday to Windsor to spend two weeks with relatives.

D. H. Kendrick, Amherst, Mass., formerly proprietor of the Kendrick House, was in Putney Tuesday.

Rev. D. J. Pierce will preach on "Jacob's Awakening and Tithing Vow," next Sunday at the Baptist church.

Rev. J. B. Bennett and family went Tuesday to Claremont Junction and Sunapee lake to spend the rest of the week.

Reports from John McKee, who has been critically ill in Alpena, Mich., indicate that he has improved during the past 10 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parker and child of Hartford, Conn., came to East Putney this week to visit Mr. Parker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Parker.

Miss S. E. White went to Sugar Hill, N. H., Tuesday to spend the rest of the summer with Mrs. Bertha Easty, who is conducting a summer hotel there.

D. S. Angier of Brattleboro has bought of Mrs. Kilburn the Moore farm at the top of the hill between this village and East Putney. The farm contains about 90 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Willard went Saturday to New London, Conn., to spend several weeks. Mr. Willard, who recently sold his blacksmith shop, has not decided where he will locate.

Mrs. Olive J. Stowell has erected a monument of granite in the Stowell family lot in Maple Grove cemetery, and has been here this week to inspect it. The contract was taken by a Greenfield contractor.

It is an interesting fact that Dr. Harriet E. Parker of this town, who is now a medical missionary in India, started out with the intention of going to China, but her plans were altered by the American Board, under whose auspices she is at work.

M. G. Williams and family went Saturday to Claremont Junction to occupy their cottage. Mrs. Williams will remain there six weeks or more, or until after the annual camp meeting, and Mr. Williams will divide his time between the cottage and his home here.

Rev. E. F. Mitchell and family will go to Westley Farms, Mass., today to keep open, for the present, the house on the estate of Mrs. Mitchell's mother, who died recently. They will store their furniture in Putney. Mr. Mitchell preached in Sutton, Mass., the past two Sundays as a candidate.

Ed. Aiken recently started to burn some of his old papers, when it occurred to him that it might be well to look them through. In doing so he found two bills in United States currency, one dated Nov. 29, 1775, and of the value of \$3, and the other dated Jan. 12, 1779, and of the value of \$4. Both were issued at Philadelphia and were made payable in Spanish milled dollars.

John Baldwin of Winchester, N. H., came to Putney this week to begin work as engineer for the Stowell Manufacturing company. He was accompanied by his son, who will have a position in the factory. The rest of the family will remain in Winchester for the present. Mr. Baldwin was for 20 years engineer in the Dickinson box factory in Winchester, which was burned July 4.

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Bakery Notice.

After July 15 my bakery wagon will deliver the village Tuesdays and Saturdays. Other days will visit the out districts.

Yours truly, PUTNEY BAKERY.

CHESTERFIELD, N. H.

Walter Butler has gone to visit relatives. Carpenters are now busily erecting a large new horse barn upon the Fisk home-stand farm.

Rev. George Lowell of the Methodist church will begin a series of sermons next Sunday upon the Bible.

The hay season is being rushed to its full capacity. Only about one-half of the usual crop will be gathered.

George Britton is enjoying a brief vacation from the tumult of city life with the family of J. C. Hubbard, his uncle.

Miss Nellie Wetherbee returned to her home in Clinton, Mass., being summoned there by the serious illness of her father.

The weather during the week has been a great reminder to the city people of our beautiful lake, and they are beginning to make their pilgrimage in this direction.

Over 100 people listened with great pleasure to the graphophone entertainment given by George C. Fisk of Springfield at the residence of his uncle, John B. Fisk, last Saturday. The selections were very clear and of a high standard.

The laws of the state in regard to prohibition of sale of liquors to minors should be placed in force, judging by the scenes that took place last Sunday. Now that we have a police court established our selectmen should make use of it.

STRATTON.

Thomas Stowell and wife have returned to Bennington.

Taft & Co.'s mill shut down the 7th for two or three weeks for haying.

Mrs. Walter Temple of the Massachusetts state farm is at J. B. Temple's for the hot weather.

P. W. and E. B. MacKaye of Shirley, Mass., and Horace E. Hildreth of Howard, Mass., who have been camping on Haystack, are in town to climb Stratton mountain and see a few of the objects of interest in this historic town. The party expect to leave Stratton Thursday morning on their way to Killington. They are looking well and having a fine time.

The Free Baptist church celebrated its 41st anniversary on July 15th. Addresses were made by Rev. Wm. A. Estabrook of Wilmington on Christian growth, Rev. Mr. Currier of Bondville on influence, and Rev. Mr. Blacklock of Jamaica on the larger spiritual life. The pastor gave a historical sketch of the different meetings houses and church organizations of Stratton.

Songs were sung by Merl Willis and Mrs. Emeline L. Lackey, and duets by Rev. W. A. Estabrook and Miss Fieda M. Estabrook and by N. D. Allen and Miss Irene Allen. Rev. W. A. Estabrook gave an excellent sermon in the evening. A strange coincidence each of the churches that have existed in Stratton was represented in the exercises by a minister.

READSBORO.

The residence of J. Manning Bassett at Howe Pond, two miles from Readsboro village, was destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon, together with the barn and contents. All the household furniture and other goods in the house were burned, with the exception of one chamber suite and a small quantity of bedding. The contents of the barn were totally destroyed, including a quantity of hay. The loss is estimated at from \$1000 to \$2000, which is covered by \$1800 insurance. The cause of the fire is not known. Mr. Bassett was absent at the time and Mrs. Bassett was at home alone.

HOUGHTONVILLE.

Mrs. Corey is visiting her sister, Mrs. Hill.

A deer was seen near the school house recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walsh of Boston arrived here last Thursday.

Miss Lena Farnum of Portland, Me., and Roy Blood of Chester, are guests at Ed. Blood's.

Mr. Decamp and family are boarding at Charles Abbott's. Mr. Decamp is teacher for C. H. Sanders.

E. D. Akley and family from Ludlow were guests at E. S. Cadore's Saturday. Mr. Akley returned to Ludlow Sunday. Mrs. Akley and children remaining at Mr. Cadore's.

ASHUELLOT, N. H.

Ansel Dickinson's Sons are building a good-sized store-house at their Fuller dam box shop to relieve the crowded condition of the shipping department.

Red raspberries are unusually abundant and it is a common sight to see people hawking bound with 20 or more quarts each, after a few hours' picking.

The mill property of the estate of the late James S. Gill was appraised Saturday, the 19th, by E. C. Parker, W. H. Ellis and John Colton of Keene and C. J. Amidon of Hinsdale.

Making his own pace, with 122 pounds up, or 32 pounds more than the former recordholder, Lavoie, carried, James R. Keene's campaigner in two countries, the fast Voter, Tuesday ran a mile in 1:35 at the Brighton Beach race track and set a new world's record for the distance.

The Merchants' National bank of Rutland that was looted last March by Charles W. Massey, who is now serving a seven years' sentence at the house of correction, is about to declare a dividend of 50 per cent to creditors and depositors. Another dividend, it is said, will be declared in October. The bank expects to pay dollar for dollar.

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HINSDALE, N. H.

Rev. Mr. Renshaw's Resignation.

He Wishes to Close His Pastorate About Thanksgiving Day, on Completion of Five Years Work Here.

Rev. Mr. DeBoe of Westminster, Vt., preached at the Congregational church last Sunday morning in exchange with the pastor. At the close of the service Mr. DeBoe read the pastor's resignation, as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Congregational Church, Hinsdale, N. H.: Dear Brothers and Sisters:—

I hereby tender my resignation as your pastor and teacher, and expect to close my labors here about Thanksgiving day of this year. This will complete five years' work with God among you. It is customary to give reasons for such action. I will simply state that it is not because I do not love you or because I have reason to think that you are lacking in affection for me; nor is it because I think that God has not blessed the ministry and would not continue to bless it were we to continue to work together. I firmly believe that God joined us together for this swiftly passing five years so that we might be richer in religious experience and that the efficiency of our service might be increased as we see the necessity for our working with Him. I resign my work here at this time because I think that God can get better work out of both pastor and people by the change. Can there be given a better reason? I know not as yet where He wants me to labor when I leave here, but He will let me know at the right time, and I trust His grace always to be responsive to His call.

I commend you to His grace who has caused you to think in His marvelous light. "I thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard of me, you received it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh in you also that believe." With love and best wishes for your future prosperity, I am your brother and pastor in His friendship.

Wm. E. Renshaw.

Hinsdale Cong. Parsonage, July 4, 1900.

To many of the Congregation this came as a surprise and a source of much regret. During the years of Mr. Renshaw's pastorate it is not to much too say that he has labored zealously and faithfully for the good of the church both spiritually and temporally, and both he and his family have made many warm friends who look forward to any change with sorrow. But as the time has come when he believes it best for both pastor and people that the relations be severed, we can only wish him a new field of labor which shall be pleasant, and where the fruitage will be abundant.

Houses Struck by Lightning. During the severe thunder storm on Thursday afternoon of last week, the house belonging to James Hancock in Upper Canada and occupied by John Devo was struck by lightning, the bolt striking the gable end of the main building, running from there down into the L, and entering the kitchen at the corner, tore off the plastering, broke a lamp, and went out at another corner. No one was injured, although Mrs. Devo was somewhat stunned by the shock, and Mrs. Parker, who lives about 150 yards from the Devo house, felt the shock considerably. A bolt also entered the house of Charles Frary, rolled about, and went out without doing any damage.

Fire in a Bakery. The fire alarm was sounded at 2:45 o'clock Saturday afternoon, fire having been discovered in the bakery of Paul Lavoie in Monitor block. The fire department were on hand in a very short time, and the fire was quickly extinguished. The oven and "fixings" were destroyed and there was considerable damage by water. Mr. Lavoie's goods were insured. He says he shall clear out and build up again next week, so as to resume business.

Miss Emma Renshaw is visiting out of town relatives.

O. C. Robertson returned Tuesday from a business trip to Philadelphia.

Miss Annie E. Kelley is the guest of her friend, Mrs. W. O. J. Martin.

Miss Mildred Russell of Farley, Mass., is visiting Miss Howard on River street, and calling on other friends.

Postmaster A. M. Barrows left Monday morning for Lebanon, where she will spend her annual two weeks' vacation.

Miss Etta Stebbins of Vernon has been the guest of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenza Stebbins, for several days.

Mrs. Edward Shee and daughter, Miss Hazel, of Orange, Mass., came Tuesday for a visit among relatives and friends in town.

Principal Fisher, who is attending the summer school at Harvard college, came home Tuesday evening to remain until Monday.

Miss Florence Goldard returned from Chicopee, Mass., Monday. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Murphy, and little son, who will make a few days' visit.

Mrs. Elizabeth Markey returned from a two weeks' visit in Claremont Tuesday, bringing her little granddaughter, Mildred Cramer, with her to remain during the summer.

The Pearson Brothers of Keene have taken for the coming year for public entertainment the High school building. Two boilers and 13 radiators will be required to properly heat the four rooms and halls.

Several of the young matrons met with Mrs. F. H. Jones Monday afternoon to prepare work for Mrs. B. B. Robbins and family, who were victims of the Winchester fire. Mrs. Robbins is a daughter of George M. Pike and formerly lived in this town, so that her misfortunes arouse especial interest here.

The Congregational Sunday school held their annual picnic at Forest lake last week Thursday. It was largely attended, Livyanna Smith's big barge and a big team and two single teams from F. P. Hinds' being chartered for the occasion, besides those who went by private conveyance. All seemed to have a good time in spite of the terrific thunder storm, during which all got under cover and did not allow the elements to interfere with their enjoyment.

The following officers-elect were installed in Valley Commandery, United Order of the Golden Cross, on Thursday evening by Grand Commander J. F. C. Hider: A. F. Fisher, noble commander; Miss Cora Wellman, vice noble commander; C. H. Pearson, past noble commander; Mrs. V. C. Aldrich, prelate; G. A. Robertson, herald; Mrs. Wm. Royce, guard of inner gate; F. G. Packard, guard of outer gate; M. D. White, financial keeper of records; Mrs. Addie E. Dix, keeper of records; J. T. Powers, treasurer. The commandery has lost four members by death during the present year.

The Proposed Town Hall.

The town hall committee are often in consultation about the new town hall building. Likewise the public mind generally is a good deal engrossed with the subject. The plans submitted by the architect, and which meet the approval of the committee, are for a building which could not fail to please, but the cost of which would exceed the appropriation. The committee will consult with another architect, with a view to putting a building on the old foundation, without the anticipated enlargement.

The town voted to appropriate \$20,000 for the building, and there was an insurance of \$15,000 on the one destroyed by fire; \$4500 has already been expended for the Evans' property. A considerable sum more will have to be paid for the present plans and specifications, which if the plans are not used, will take so much from the original \$35,000. Now would be a good time for some public spirited individual, or individuals, who have money to spare, to come to the rescue with a few thousand dollars, and afterward enjoy the fruits of his liberality in a public building of which the town may be proud.

Tragic Death of James E. Clough's Daughter. James E. Clough of Holyoke was in town Tuesday when he received news of the tragic death of his daughter, Eleanor M. Shaw, wife of E. D. Shaw. Mr. Clough left at once for Worcester, and accompanied the train to Holyoke.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were married June 18th last. Mr. Shaw is collector for the New England Telephone and Telegraph company. Mrs. Shaw was 29 years old, and was a graduate of the Holyoke high school.

Miss Mabel Briggs of Brattleboro is visiting at W. N. Pike's.

Mrs. Lucretia Atwood is in Wendell, Mass., for a few days.

Mrs. W. E. Renshaw went Thursday for a visit with her sister in Marlboro.

Frank Stacey of Keene was in town to attend the Christian-Bergeron wedding Monday morning.

A. H. Latham has been appointed on the board of supervisors in the place of the late Geo. S. Wilder.

Mrs. Wm. Burrows went to Maine last week. She will remain with relatives until about September 1.

Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Amidon of Wilton have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Amidon for a few days.

Mrs. Johnson and daughter, Miss Aggie Johnson of Roxbury, Mass., are with Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Latham.

Mrs. C. A. Mason and Miss E. F. Baker went to Keene to attend the funeral of their uncle, Justin S. Blake, Friday.

District Deputy J. J. Carroll installed the officers of lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F., at Winchester last week Thursday evening.

Clarence Booth, who is employed by the Wilkins Toy company in Keene, came home Wednesday morning suffering from sore throat.

Caspar Roeder and wife are entertaining P. J. Layden and daughter of Providence, R. I. for three weeks at their home in North Hinsdale.

The Junior league, connected with the Methodist church, held a lawn party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Stevenson Thursday afternoon and evening.

Mrs. R. F. Benjamin and her grand-daughter, Miss Perkins, of Baltimore, came yesterday to spend the summer at Nelson Richardson's in the north part of the town.

The last of the log drivers were camped near the ferry Sunday night, after working all day getting the river at this point clear of logs. Many of the villagers visited them Sunday.

Mrs. William Crowley, who has been at her father's, John Donovan's, for the past six weeks, returned to her home in Hartford, Ct., Thursday morning, somewhat improved in health.

Fred Davis, wife and child of Hartford, Conn., are spending their annual two weeks' vacation at the home of Mr. Davis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Davis on the Northfield road. Mrs. Clough of Hartford is also a guest at the same place.

Deputy George Sackem Wm. J. Wheelock of Keene recently installed the chiefs of Spunkies tribe, I. O. O. F., as follows: J. P. Felch, prophet; M. D. White, sachem; W. E. Fay, senior saganore; Morris Powers, junior saganore; S. A. Day, representative.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which the late Dr. M. C. Dix was a member, paid to the widow \$15,000 after his death, a check for the amount due on the insurance on his life. The doctor belonged to Ashuelot lodge in Winchester, and this was the first company, of the several to which the doctor belonged, to pay the insurance.

Frank Christian and Annie Bergeron were united in marriage at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church on Monday morning. Rev. Father Wilde performing the ceremony. Immediately after the ceremony a wedding breakfast was enjoyed at the home of the bride in Jackson's block on Main street, and at 3 p. m. dinner was served at the home of the groom's mother on Snow's avenue. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Christian were driven to Brattleboro to take the 10:10 train out for a bridal trip. The young couple are very popular and have the good wishes of many friends.

The lawn party given by the Congregational ladies' society at W. M. Pike's on the Northfield road Wednesday afternoon and evening was a pleasant success. The weather after the mid-day shower was all that could be desired, and the place an ideal one for such a gathering. Supper was served on the lawn and was enjoyed by a large number of people. Ice cream went with a ready hand and the supply was exhausted and more had to be brought out for a bride trip. The young couple are very popular and have the good wishes of many friends.

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